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ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

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## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong Telegraph" and not to the Editor.

Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writers, not necessarily for publication; but as evidence of good faith.

While the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always be open for the free discussion by correspondents of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in that day's issue not later than THREE O'CLOCK so as not to retard the early publication of the paper.

## TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Arrangements have been made to publish The Hongkong Telegraph daily at 4 P.M. Subscribers in the central districts who do not receive their copies before FIVE O'CLOCK will oblige by at once communicating with the Manager.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1883.

THE result of the libel case *BULGIN v. FRASER-SMITH*, tried before Mr. Justice Russell and a special jury, at the Supreme Court on Monday last, is another startling indication of the elastic nature of the Libel Act and a convincing proof of the extraordinary legal acumen and profound intelligence of a Hongkong jury. The verdict returned in this case simply closes the door to anything like independent discussion in the public press of this Colony. It has been practically decided by these gentlemen that anything in the slightest degree offensive to or reflecting on any plaintiff is a malicious libel which demands damages, no matter under what circumstances the affair may have been brought before the public. The decisions of all the great English Judges during the past seventeen years have been totally set aside or ignored; it has been held that there is no such thing as a qualified privilege attached to newspaper publications; the spirit as well as the letter of the law have been quietly "shelved;" and damages have been awarded for fairly and justifiably publishing harmless expressions, which under no possible combination of circumstances, could be construed by reasonable and thinking men to mean what the law terms "a false and malicious libel." The Hongkong press would in future appear to be placed completely at the mercy of any low, sneaking scamp, who cares to insult decency and public intelligence by flaunting his toothless venom and brazen impudence in the columns of any wretched print, and who, when his shallow pretensions are held up to public ridicule, seeks compensation for his wounded feelings and sham reputation at the hands of a jury in an action at law.

The facts in the case *BULGIN v. FRASER-SMITH* are easily dealt with. The first named in his capacity as editor of the *China Mail* publishes what is supposed to be a criticism of a paragraph in the *Nagasaki Rising Sun*. In this criticism (?) Mr. Bulgin wrote:—"It is a mean and cowardly proceeding of which amateur journalists are frequently guilty, to make vituperative and senseless remarks concerning persons who do not act exactly in accordance with their wishes." Now these exceedingly hostile observations were really not elicited by anything published in the *Nagasaki* paper; they were not, so far as can be seen, either justifiable, or in any way called for; nor could they claim to be a criticism of the opinions of the *Rising Sun* on the subject at issue. In fact, they were nothing more nor less than a grossly offensive and per-

sonal attack on somebody—who that somebody is even Mr. Bulgin, on oath, was not quite sure. The defendant in dealing with the matter in the columns of the *Telegraph* asked what justification Mr. Bulgin had for setting himself up as an authority on the acts of journalists, and made a statement to the effect that this self constituted critic's journalistic experiences prior to coming to China had been confined to police court reporting for a low class paper called the *Clerkenwell News*; that he had been a journalistic failure in Hongkong, Yokohama and Shanghai; had written a lot of vulgar trash; and was, judged by the criticism quoted above, an impertinent "puppy," whose cheek was his strongest point. Mr. Bulgin was further advised to confine himself as much as possible in his capacity of Editor of the *China Mail* to the use of the scissors and paste brush. There can be little doubt that Mr. FRASER-SMITH in writing of Mr. Bulgin's journalistic experiences prior to coming to China, intended to refer to his London experiences, and the omission of a single word was taken to completely alter the meaning of what

was said to be a false and malicious libel. This kind of thing may be strict law, but it is a long way from being strictly just. Although Mr. Bulgin's insulting and uncalled for references to the mean and cowardly amateur journalist he had in his mind's eye, were ten times more scandalous and disgraceful than the paragraph in the *Telegraph*, the thin-skinned self-constituted literary expert, the greatly self-lauded author and journalist considered it necessary in defence of his "precious reputation" to institute legal proceedings for defamation of character. Under examination in the witness box it was elicited from Mr. Bulgin that his only London experiences were on the *Daily Chronicle*—which was and is still known as the *Clerkenwell News*—but in addition to this he had been one year on the *Cheltenham Times* "to learn journalism;" four and a half years on some country papers, known as "Mr. BAXTER'S South of England newspapers;" and one year on the *Rosendale News*. As Mr. Bulgin's provincial experiences had been omitted, it was alleged that the reference made by the defendant to his status as a journalist were false, and consequently malicious and libellous.

Judging from the cross-examination of Mr. Bulgin, we are inclined to think that, from a practical point of view, Mr. FRASER-SMITH's summing up of the Editor of the *China Mail*'s journalistic experiences to constitute him a literary expert was substantially correct. We saw Mr. Bulgin under examination by Mr. FRANCIS, we heard his replies to Mr. FRASER-SMITH's "heckling," and we are of opinion that the talented author of "Notes on Australasia, South Africa, and Mauritius" displayed sufficient aptitude in the art of playing with the truth to entitle him to a place in the niche of fame alongside that great champion, DANIEL EDWARD BANDMANN. Mr. Bulgin's memory was greatly at fault when he made a mistake of a year and a half in stating his age; or was it not a slight error in the not too carefully compiled list of his journalistic engagements? Mr. Bulgin's memory was again unreliable when he swore that he had never mentioned anything in any way to the defendant about his police court reporting in London. His own letter drew forth the reluctant admission that he had given some information; but he could not remember, Mr. Bulgin's imagination was evidently wandering when he alluded to Mr. GRIBBLE, who, he said, was editor of the *Nagasaki Express* when he (Bulgin) was in Japan. Mr. Bulgin's experiences in Japan, according to his own sworn statement, extended over the space of one calendar month; but a far more reliable authority in our estimation, the *Shanghai Mercury*, says a fortnight was his full term on the *Japan Mail*. In any case, he could know very little about Japan, beyond his "impressions." Mr. Bulgin said he knew Mr. RIVINGTON, the editor of the *Mercury*, and in the next breath confessed that he had never spoken to that gentleman in his life. Mr. Bulgin when brought to the scratch was compelled to admit that he knew nothing about the Editor of the *Nagasaki Express*, that the probabilities were this, and his impressions that; that he could not say at this date what was passing through his mind when he wrote the slanderous paragraph, but that he did not think Mr. FRASER-SMITH was in his mind when he wrote it.

We are inclined to believe that had the *BULGIN v. FRASER-SMITH* libel case been tried in England, apart altogether from the question whether the alleged libel was or was not defamatory and therefore actionable, the admissions of Mr. Bulgin in the witness box would have extinguished his chances of obtaining a favorable verdict from any practical and intelligent jury. In the face of his oath that he had never done any police court reporting in London for the *Clerkenwell News*, his own letter and the defendant's sworn statement were quite

enough to show that he was not the witness of truth. The change of the paper's name from the *Clerkenwell News* to the *Daily Chronicle* and *Clerkenwell News* (?) raised a paltry quibble too contemptible to be seriously considered. Mr. Bulgin swore he was for one year editor and manager of the *Rosendale News*. There is, as a matter of fact, no such paper in existence. In the little town of Bacup in Lancashire, some 22 miles from Manchester, a small weekly paper is published, but its proper title is not the *Rosendale News* as sworn to by Mr. JAMES BULGIN, and this fact that the estimable gentleman knows right well. There are some half truths worse than a deliberate lie; this was one of them. The real question at issue was—Had the defendant falsely and maliciously defamed the professional reputation and prospects of the plaintiff by asserting that his journalistic experiences prior to coming to China were practically not of such a character as to justify his setting himself up as an authority on literary matters, and to entitle him to speak of his fellow labourers in the field of journalism as mean, cowardly and contemptible? In the face of the whole of the facts of the case, we think that in no place in the wide world, excepting Hongkong, would the plaintiff have obtained a verdict.

The damage to Mr. Bulgin's professional prospects and reputation was estimated at £100—not a lordly amount, it must be admitted. After he has paid his counsel's retainer, we opine that the balance remaining will not go a great way towards providing the succulent sausage or the soul inspiring blather for this mighty editor's matutinal meals. Were the game worth the candle, or our time less valuable, we should carry the case further, and ask Sir GEORGE PHILLIPPO for a new trial, and in the event of his lordship refusing to grant us another hearing, bring the matter before Her Majesty's Privy Council. But really it is not worth while. Public opinion in Hongkong is with us, and that is all we really care about. We shall certainly send a full report of the proceedings to the highest legal authorities in London—as we did with most gratifying results to ourselves in the *BANDMANN* case—but merely for our own satisfaction, as we really are anxious to know how far a public journal can go in its criticisms without being liable to the annoyance of a libel action. We should regret exceedingly to have to resort to club-law; but really if the Law of Libel is what has been laid down in the case now under consideration, it would be far better for an independent Editor to plead his cause before a Magistrate than to be subjected to the tender mercies of a Hongkong jury.

The legal bearings of our latest libel case will be carefully treated in a special article.

## TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, 26th June.  
THE CHOLERA IN EGYPT.  
Asiatic cholera is increasing in Damietta.

## THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE NEW CANAL.

Mr. Gladstone, in reply to a question, said that the British Government and the Suez Canal Company had agreed on many points, but had not yet fixed the date from which to extend the reduction of the tariff and that there were other important points still under consideration.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

We quite agree with Byron that some men are worms in soul, more than the living things in tombs. We have had personal experience on the point quite recently.

THE only great libraries of study and research in the world which are kept open in any part during the evening, are the Bodleian at Oxford and the Royal Library in Brussels.

It would appear that there are still some remnants of the old tyranny in France. A French doctor has been sent to jail for selling a tonic warranted to make a man live 303 years.

THE case of Loureiro v. the Club Lyonnais in the Supreme Court, which was to have been heard on Tuesday last has been fixed for hearing on the morning of Wednesday, July 11th, at 10 o'clock.

We are informed by the Agents, Messrs. G. R. Stevens & Co., that the steamship *Venice* left Sydney yesterday for this port, via Queensland ports and Port Darwin, and is due to arrive here on or about the 24th proximo.

"Well, old fellow, how is your mother-in-law?" "Dead!"—He had (excuse my emotion) had a stroke of apoplexy and died in less than ten minutes. At first I thought she had only fainted, and I never was so scared in my life."

TO-DAY being the anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Victoria's coronation, the above battery fired a royal salute of 21 guns at noon which was quickly taken up by the *Victor Emmanuel* the flagship flying the Royal banner. We noticed the British steamer *Sheriff* ordered by the E. E. & C. Telegraph Company's steamer, decorated with bunting in honor of the occasion, but failed to notice any other British vessel display the same feeling of loyal patriotism.

We read that the moral support heretofore given to the Salvation army in England by dignitaries of the Episcopal Church is being withdrawn.

A CYNICAL contemporary remarks that the American horse in the English races, and the American hog in the German markets, seem to be making but poor headway this season.

"INFIDELITY used to skulk," says Archbishop Vaughan. "Infidelity," replies Charles Bright, "might well skulk when its professors were put to death if they showed themselves. It was a fine thing for the wolf to accuse the lamb of skulking."

JOHN BRIGHT, speaking at Glasgow, the other day, to the University students, trotted out the old observation that the Indian Empire, which England has won by breaking all the Ten Commandments, cannot be ruled on the principles of the Sermon on the Mount.

Of the inhabitants of New Guinea, Great Britain's latest acquisition, a recent writer says: The truth appears to be that New Guinea is inhabited by at least two different races; one, which is supposed to be the aboriginal, being the Papuan proper, who are black or dusky brown, with fished hair and highly accentuated negro features; the other copper colored, straight haired and allied to the Polynesian family.

We read that four men were recently "docked" for robbing one "David Talbot, at Lancelotti, Vic. David is excessively short-sighted, and when asked if he could identify the prisoners as the men who bailed him up, he electrified the court by pointing with the greatest confidence to the jury, and then shouting out: "Yes, them's the gentlemen who robbed me." David had got his ideas of a "jury of four" muddled up with matters of a somewhat foreign nature.

Says that pious humbug, the Reverend Joe Cook:—There are 300,000,000 of women on this planet who have only the Buddhist hope of being born again as men instead of loads or snakes. There are 80,000,000 of women in Moslem harems. There are uncounted millions of men and women and children growing up in the most degraded superstitions, and suffering in mind and body and estate, from inherited Pagan customs. In the name of mere philanthropy and secular prudence, Christian missions ought to receive a support, immediate, abundant, permanent, and unflinching.

We read that a timber merchant living and carrying on business at Kiba Fukagawa, Tokyo, who was once a rich man, has been lately reduced to poverty owing to the changes in the business since the Restoration. He sold off his household effects one after another till he was obliged to part with the last godown in his possession to meet the demands of his creditors. Accidentally, however, while he was removing some debris from the building, he discovered a pool of water under the floor, and, attracted by curiosity, pumped out the water, when to his great surprise he found a copper box containing 483 pieces of old gold and silver coins, which appear to have been preserved by his forefathers to be used in case of dire necessity. He reported the discovery to the authorities and gave a banquet in order to offer thanks to his ancestors.

SAYS the *Japan Weekly Mail* of the 16th inst.:—"Freights on offer are at low figures, and no improvement may be looked for till the inquiry for bottoms is greater than it is at present. The tea season is in full swing, and the two next mail steamers for San Francisco will take large quantities of the commodity, the *Cybele*, on the 23rd inst., and the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 6th proximo, at 3 cents and 2 cents respectively. The steamers *Duvenesse* and *Hartur* are both on the berth for New York at £3 10s., and the American bark *Guy C. Goss* is taking tea for New York at 2 cents per lb. gross and 87 U.S. gold per ton of 40 cubic feet for San Francisco; the American ship *Gracian* is loading at the same rate as the *Goss*, and both vessels are rapidly filling up. The *Radnorshire* sailed on Saturday last, for London, via ports; and the *Pembroke* and *Lord of the Isles* for New York, via ports, on the 12th. The *Patrida*, the steamer referred to last week as having been offered to the Union Shipping Company, has been purchased for the sum of £26,250, and the vessel being new (her keel was laid in October last) and as she is precisely suited to the requirements of the company, it is generally considered they have made a good bargain.

AN Australian paper says:—At Ballarat one Ah Chung (probably of Eastern origin) observed a box on his counter. He had not placed it there, so with the delightful curiosity (it is a gross calumny to suppose that women have a monopoly of this winning characteristic) of his sex and nation, he opened it. It contained dynamite caps. Even then his curiosity was not satisfied, so he took one to learn what could be learnt of it, without an instructor, but with a hammer. He is now acquainted with the properties of fulminating mercury. He is also a thumb and three fingers short. His digits were short enough before, but they are shorter now—at least in number. Besides the unsightliness inseparable from truncated members, his performances on the "tom-tom" are somewhat interfered with, as the artistic shake on which so much depends in Oriental music has to be skipped or imperfectly rendered. The peculiarities of nitro-glycerine and its half-brother dynamite are now so well understood that it is not easy to see what additional light Ah Chung expected to throw on the matter by actual experiment. One thing, however, is certain. The confiding nature of this child of the Sun has undergone such a radical change, and his desire to study the fitness of things has received such an emphatic rebuff, that the poultry belonging to his barbarian neighbors are suffered to attain a longevity and development to which they were formerly strangers.

We are informed by the agents, Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co., that the Nouvelle Compagnie Marseillaise de Navigation a Vapeur's steamship *Amerique*, from Marseilles, left Saigon this morning for this port.

AFTER a revival meeting held not far from Melbourne, we read that several converted Chinamen joined the whites in singing "We're bound for the Promised Land." The audience knew, however, that they were bound for somebody's hen-roost.

We take the following from the *Sydney Bulletin*:—"Advance larrikins! Scene: Quarter Sessions, Bourke. Promising youth being tried before intelligent jury for pulling a woman's clothes up to her knees in presence of four men. Sworn to by reliable witness. Verdict, not guilty. Judge Docker: "Well, gentlemen, I am rather astonished at the verdict you have arrived at." Foreman: "We thought the whole thing was only a lark." O yes, such a lark for—the woman!"

"SENEX" writes to the *Times* to ask if any one can inform him how an old member, without becoming an atheist, can obtain so comfortable a seat as that now occupied by Mr. Bradlaugh. He says:—"I have sat in Parliament many years, and am beginning to feel bored by the late hours, the weary divisions, and the unprofitable wrangling. I should be very glad to retire, but fear I should miss the pleasure of occasionally strolling in, to hear the debates, or have a gossip with my friends. Could I exchange places with Mr. Bradlaugh? Barring his atheism, I should be glad to do so at once. To find the House of Commons once more what it used to be called, the best club in London, to have the run of its library and refreshment rooms, to spend the whole morning there reading, writing, eating, drinking, and smoking, and in the afternoon to listen to the eloquence of Mr. Gladstone from the best seat in the house, so far as seeing and hearing are concerned, without the responsibility of speaking or voting—such a position seems to me to be the very elysium of London life, and I wonder that any one should wish to exchange it for the purgatory of political strife inside the bar of the house." The writer throws out the suggestion that members who have sat in Parliament for, say, twenty-five or thirty years, and who may wish to retire from its active duties without losing their entire interest in it, should have the privilege of becoming honorary though no longer honourable members.

A VERY curious case, which has been before the French courts for fifteen years, has lately been decided. It appears that in 1866 a certain Zouave (named Jacob) was suddenly invested with the power of curing all manner of bodily infirmities by the glance of his eye. The letters produced in court show that "Jacob's cure" enjoyed a great vogue; marshals of the French army were among his clients, and one of them who was lame testified to the fact that after meeting Jacob's eye "he was able to dispense with his crutches and dance round his garden." Jacob was as generous as he was powerful; he refused to accept any money for his services, and rejected the offers of all the Barons who were anxious to exhibit him. At last, however, he came to terms with a Catholic publisher, M. Repois. Jacob was to write "at the dictation of the spirits" a work entitled "Pensées du Zouave Jacob"; M. Repois was to publish it at his sole risk, and the profits were to be equally divided—a further condition being that the work was to be published without the change of a word. Unfortunately, the book turned out to be one of those "whereof, though not in Dutch, the world too little knows, the publisher too much." M. Repois proceeded to recast the work, and Jacob promptly brought an action for damages. The war intervened, and Jacob was reported to have been shot as a spy. The spirits, however, had not really forsaken him, and in 1873 he returned to France. Meanwhile M. Repois had died, and his heirs could not be found. But in 1880 they came forward; Jacob at once pressed his action, and after various delays and appeals he has been awarded 2,000 francs damages for M. Repois's presumption in tampering with the words of the spirits.

MR. OSCAR WILDE recently expressed himself freely to a Paris correspondent concerning the discovery of the beautiful that he made at Chicago. He said:—"Even in Chicago I found much—much of intense interest—beauties. One day as I strolled in that city I came upon—er—the water-works—a sort of castellated atrocity, with pepper-box turrets and absurd portcullises. How came they (thought I, with amusement) how came they to erect this hideous building in this most modern and utilitarian of cities? I must have a closer look at this horror. Perchance I shall find some beauty even here, I murmured; for we cannot live without Beauty, you know. We can do without food, and things of that sort, but not without Beauty. Then it occurred to me that perhaps I might discover this Beauty I had sought for in vain so long in American machinery. A wheel is in itself a very beautiful object. All the noblest forms of the ceramic art are derived from the potter's wheel. And yet in England I had always found machinery such a pitiful and ugly thing—a jumble of cranks and cogs and petty pieces, you know, without a touch of grandeur about them. So I entered that castellated horror at Chicago, and there at last I came upon a wheel—the wheel of the Chicago Waterworks—a mighty, majestic, unutterably harmonious wheel. I saw the beauty and the poetry of America in that revolving wonder; and I said to myself, ever America produces a great musician let him write a Machinery Symphony. He could have no more worthy subject. But of course they never will have a great musician out there." continued Oscar, dropping from the clouds to earth with singular suddenness, "until they have abolished the shrieking steam whistle. Their symphonies have all been ruined by those whistles."

ARCHER'S Surprise Party gave a very successful performance in the Concordia Theatre, Canton, on Tuesday evening to a rather select but highly appreciative audience. Mr. Lacie called great amusement in his clever exhibition of ventriloquism with his wooden-headed family in "Begone, Dull Care," and Mr. and Mrs. Archer were very well received in their capital variety entertainment. We understand that Mr. Archer and his Company will shortly leave for Shanghai via the Coast Ports, where they ought to perform to good houses.

"How is your wife this morning?" asked the pastor of Mr. Johnson. "She died last night." "Ah, that's a grievous affliction." "Yes, I know it." "But, Brother Johnson, it's an ill wind blows no good, and it is all for the best." "I think so myself, sir, and I try to bear up under it." "That's right, I'm glad to hear you say so." "Yes, yes; I've just figured up that the funeral will cost \$68.75, and the amount she had calculated on for spring clothes was \$101.50. It is true that \$32.75 is not much on such an occasion as this, but I try to be calm and not let my feelings overcome me."

How juries manage in Paris. Soufflet, a young artisan, had a row in a pub. with one Astheimer, because the former declined to pay after having invited Astheimer to drink. He was kicked outside by the landlord, but soon after returned with a wooden plank, waited for Astheimer at the street corner, and hit him with it over the head in such a manner that Astheimer died. Council for the prisoner. Now informed the jury that Soufflet was well known to be a man of a violent temper, and Astheimer should have known better than irritate him by declining to pay for the drinks. As he persisted in doing so to his own danger, it was Astheimer's own fault that he got killed. The jury were so impressed with this argument that they brought in a verdict of "not guilty."

A FAIRLY large number of spectators attended the performance at Chiarini's circus last night when a repetition of the previous evening's programme was gone through. The artists engaged were well received in their various acts and were accorded warm applause. A grand change of programme has been advertised for to-night's show in which the English clown, Messrs. French and Angelo, will make their first joint appearance. A grand tumbling exhibition by the entire company is also announced. For the first time this season Mr. Lavater Lee will appear and present his somersaults and plouchees on horse-back. When Mr. Lee was here before he created a very favorable impression by his brilliant and finished riding of the trick act school, so we are looking forward to being treated to something good to-night. Signor Chiarini will introduce his four black stallions and show what patient training is capable of when applied to that noblest specimen of the brute creation, the horse. The Walhalla brothers in their musical interlude, and the laughable pantomime of the "Four Lovers," to say nothing of the skating exhibition of the Goodrich family, which will be repeated by special request, should attract a large audience to the Bowington marquee.

"THE classic Bandmann" does not appear from our latest advices to be electrifying the good people of Australia. Week after week the newspapers teem with paragraphs turning the efforts of "Shakespeare's patron" into ridicule. Hamlet in black-throated gloves excites merriment; Romeo in the guise of a fat Cupid is received with howls of derisive laughter. When "the great tragedian" appears as Shylock, an unkind audience is rude enough to address him from the pit as "Old Shifty per Shent," and in some towns he has been recommended "to go back to Hongkong and get kicked." In a recent number of the *Sydney Bulletin* appears the following amusing description of one of Daniel's exhibitions:—"We have received from Mackay (Q.) an account of Mr. Bandmann's performance of 'Hamlet' there. Our correspondent writes *current calama* and is, caustic besides. 'Scattered here and there through the three folio sheets of his notice are such epithetical gems as "Temple of Tragedy," "Zion of Tragedy," and many others which betray the master hand. Consequently we consider that we have been honored by a communication from a citizen of high standing up there—the Clerk of Petty Sessions, perhaps, or even the Mayor. We are inclined to think it was the clerk, however, as all the words are spelled correctly. We may be pardoned for being proud of this commendation on the part of his worship or his clerkship, whichever it is. Up till now our country correspondence has mostly been with the local bellman or pondkeeper. As might be expected, our present correspondent may your worship live forever, may your clerkship never die—has the fastidious tastes of his class. He objected, for instance, to there being no Castle of Elsinore in the play and to Hamlet standing out against a background of ragged gum trees (the stock scene in the Mackay theatre, we are informed), to plumes, his soliloquy. Really, now—though, of course, we defer to the more refined tastes of the Mackay exclusive—we think that this is rather amusing. It seems, also, that there was some bother about the Ghost—the gentleman who was to have played his part was playing poker and held too good a hand to come, or something else prevented him; but, anyhow, "a gentleman from the audience kindly consented to fill up the gap." By the way, we can't just see how the absence of a Ghost could make a gap, and did it so well that an influential section of the audience proposed to make him stick to the part altogether. It was only after a great deal of persuasion that they consented not to kill him. We have often felt the same way; there are scores of who who make very indifferent men, but who, when we persuade them, would make excellent ghosts. Anyhow, Mr. Bandmann's performance was not properly appreciated in Mackay, which is hard either upon Mackay or Mr. Bandmann; we don't know which. Daniel K. had better luck at Rockhampton."



